

FINAL

BLOOMFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

There was a regular meeting of the Bloomfield Town Council held at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, February 23, 2015 in Council Chambers, Bloomfield Town Hall, 800 Bloomfield Avenue, Bloomfield, CT.

Present were: Mayor Schulman (via phone), Deputy Mayor Joan Gamble, Councilors, Joseph Washington, Joseph Merritt, Joel Neuwirth, Patrick DeLorenzo, Derrick Seldon and Leon Rivers.

Also present were: Philip K. Schenck, Jr., Town Manager, Sharron Howe, Assistant to the Town Manager and India M. Rodgers, Clerk of Council.

Absent was: Councilor Wayne Hypolite

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The meeting began with the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

ANNOUCEMENTS & PRESENTATIONS

Performance by Global Experience Magnet School (Black History Month)

Mr. Sabin Loveland, Principal of Global Experience Magnet School and three students, Jada Gonzalez, Kelly McKearn and Jarvis Lawrence presented information from a global perspective for Black History Month.

Black History Month Proclamation

Deputy Mayor Gamble read and presented GEMS with a Black History Proclamation emphasizing the milestone achievements, contributions and efforts of African Americans in this country and beyond.

CITIZENS STATEMENT & PETITIONS

1. **Dale Bertoldi**, President of the Wintonbury Land Trust presented the Farmland Preservation Pathfinder Award for Outstanding Group to the Council for public display in Town Hall.
2. **Shasona Cassells, 22 Cadwell Road**, introduced Mr. Stephen Mitchell, Board of Trustees member of the East Coast Greenway. Ms. Cassells is a Bloomfield resident and expressed her strong advocacy in support of the greenway as well as Bloomfield becoming a bike friendly community.
3. **Stephen Mitchell**, Board of Trustees member for the East Coast Greenway presented the Council with a letter of support in making Bloomfield bike friendly. In conjunction with the efforts of the mission of the East Coast Greenway, Mr. Mitchell stated the importance of a walkable and safer community.

REPORT FROM COUNCIL SUBCOMMITTEES

Community Services – The next subcommittee meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 3, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.

Administration & Education – The next subcommittee meeting will be held on Monday, March 2, 2015 at 6:30 p.m.

Committee on Committees – This subcommittee will hold a special meeting on Wednesday, March 4, 2015 at 5:30 p.m.

Golf – Councilor Rivers will give a brief updated report of this subcommittee at the next scheduled Council meeting.

Land Use & Economic Development – This subcommittee will hold a special meeting on Tuesday, February 24, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.

COUNCIL BUSINESS

FY 14/15-44: Consider and Take Action Regarding Adoption of Resolution – Adopting 2014-2019 Capitol Region Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan Update

It was moved by Councilor Neuwirth, seconded by Councilor Washington and voted unanimously to adopt the following resolution:

Town of Bloomfield Resolution Adopting
2014-2019 Capitol Region Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan Update

WHEREAS, the Town of Bloomfield Town Council recognizes the threats that natural hazards pose to people and property with the Town of Bloomfield; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Bloomfield in collaboration with the Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG) has prepared a multi-hazard mitigation plan known as the 2014-2019 Capitol Region Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan Update in accordance with the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000; and

WHEREAS, the 2014-2019 Capitol Region Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan Update has identified mitigation goals and actions to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to people and property from the impacts of future natural hazards and disasters that affect the Town of Bloomfield and the region; and

WHEREAS, public and committee meetings were held between March 15, 2012 and October 2, 2013, regarding the development and review of the 2014-2019 Capitol Region Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan Update; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Emergency Management Agency/Department of Homeland Security has approved the 2014-2019 Capitol Region Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan Update, on condition of local adoption, enabling the Town of Bloomfield to apply for Hazard Mitigation grant funding; and

WHEREAS, adoption by the Town of Bloomfield Town Council/Board demonstrates their commitment to achieving the hazard mitigation goals outlined in the Town of Bloomfield's section of the 2014-2019 Capitol Region Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan Update.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Bloomfield Town Council hereby adopts the 2014-2019 Capitol Region Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan Update.

Councilor Neuwirth inquired about a contingency plan for recommendations. Mr. Schenck, Jr. stated no financial management or obligations of the town.

Councilor Merritt expressed concern about flood management for many years. He also requested executing this plan into actual action instead of conceptual discussions.

FY 14/15-45: Consider and Take Action Regarding Partial Funding For Hawk Hill Easement/Purchase

It was moved by Councilor Merritt, seconded by Councilor Seldon and voted unanimously to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Bloomfield Town Council on February 13, 2012, passed a resolution in support of the Wintonbury Land Trust's application for a grant under the Federal Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program to obtain a conservation easement on the 45-acre Hawk Hill Farm, adjacent to Bloomfield's LaSalette Park; and

WHEREAS, the Wintonbury Land Trust seeks to receive additional grant funds through the State Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program to either purchase the title or the development rights to Hawk Hill Farm

BE IT RESOLVED:

The Bloomfield Town Council supports the submission of an application by the Wintonbury Land Trust for a grant under the DEEP Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program to purchase or acquire the development rights to the 45-acre Hawk Hill Farm, adjacent to Bloomfield's LaSalette Park.

Councilor DeLorenzo inquired about approved grant funds from NCRS. The grant has not been received by the town as of yet. The NCRS is awaiting Council approval for partial funding commitment to release funds.

Mr. David Melesko, Director of Leisure Services advocate in support of this project.

Ms. Vicki Reski, member of the Wintonbury Land Trust thanked the Council for their continued support over the past three years.

REPORT FROM MAYOR AND TOWN MANAGER

Town Manager's Report

Mr. Philip K. Schenck, Jr., reminded Councilors of the upcoming budget season, which will begin on March 10, 2015.

Mr. Schenck, Jr. also indicated that the snow budget has exceeded the projected estimation. A 4th quarter transfer request will be submitted to balance accounts.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilor DeLorenzo encouraged all residents to donate to the fuel and food banks.

Councilor Merritt expressed his excitement and advocacy for making Bloomfield a bike friendly community.

Councilor Washington wished several town residents a speedy recovery during their brief illness.

Councilor Seldon invited the Council and residents to celebrate the Urban League of Greater Hartford 50th Anniversary on February 25, 2015 from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. The exhibit will honor the legendary William “Bill” Brown who was the first Executive Director of the Greater Hartford chapter.

Mayor Schulman, Councilors Seldon and Washington expressed their deepest condolences to Sharron Howe in the loss of her beloved husband. Mayor Schulman also expressed sympathy to the family of Mr. Florencio Morales, longtime resident of Bloomfield in the Pershing Park area in town.

Mayor Schulman commended the Town Manager Schenck, Police Chief Paul Hammick and Camilla Jones, Director of Social & Youth Services for their quick response in assisting a disabled resident with heating issues.

Deputy Mayor Gamble recommended to all residents to examine the contributions of African Americans to this country during Black History month.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 8:30 p.m., it was moved by Councilor Neuwirth, seconded by Councilor Seldon to enter into Executive Session A. – Discussion Regarding Acquisition of Land with the Town Council, Town Manager, Assistant to the Town Manager, Jose Giner, Director of Planning and Michael Goman, Consultant – Goman & York.

At 9:37 p.m., it was moved by Councilor DeLorenzo to exit Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Gamble, seconded by Mayor Schulman and voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:38p.m.

February 23, 2015

Bloomfield Town Council,

Thank you for everything you have done to ramp up the effort for Bloomfield to become a more walkable and safer community in which to ride a bicycle.

There has been a great deal of planning for the East Coast Greenway (ECG) to come to and through town. Feasibility studies and Engineering studies are good, and I understand there is a one mile section that is soon to be completed. Jonathan Thiesse, and Jeff Shea (Bloomfield & Simsbury Town Engineers) have been working together to make sure that the Greenway will match up and the project will happen in a logical sequence.

Long story short -one of the biggest mistakes of ConnDOT was a project that happened after the Flood of 1955 in Bloomfield. The intersection of CT State Routes 189 & 187 was a design from an era where there was zero regard for bicycle or pedestrian traffic. Last July 17th, Paul Hughes lost his life last year at this section of roadway. Truth be told, this is a very dangerous section and a difficult situation - because there is no practical alternative.

The ECG will connect our two towns in many ways. The time for this is NOW! Governor Malloy said in his inaugural speech a few weeks ago that his emphasis is going to be on "Transportation," and he included walkways and bike paths in his plan. I have also spent an afternoon with Commissioner Redeker, and his focus is clearly completing East Coast Greenway.

Pursuant to this wonderful endeavor, Bloomfield should consider becoming a Bicycle Friendly Community (BFC). Back in 2009, Mary Glassman said "Simsbury should be a Bicycle Friendly Community." To be honest with you, no one really knew what the heck that meant?

The best explanation is to go to the League of American Bicyclist website and see what it is all about. bikeleague.org

Since Simsbury became a Bronze Level BFC, South Windsor, West Hartford, New Britain, Farmington, and New Haven have followed suit.

To conclude, yes it is wonderful to live in a community that is wonderful and Bicycle Friendly However, let's talk numbers. As a Board of Trustees Member of the ECG, I have seen the recent studies concerning the Dollars these completed trails are responsible for. There are 252 Million Reasons in New York (Erie Canal Trail). See PTNY.org Economic Impact of the Erie Canal Trail

There are too many reasons why Bloomfield needs to put this on top of the infrastructure improvements list. Bottom line, the faster this gets done, the sooner Bloomfield will reap the benefits.

Sincerely,

Steven Mitchell

East Coast Greenway
Board of Trustees